

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/944,339

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Applicant(s)

LUNDGREN, MARK A.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed March 11, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 16-20, now renumbered 1-12, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on April 9, 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


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1. All pending claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 16-20 are allowed. Claims 1, 9 and 16 are independent.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 9 and their dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 11, and 12 are allowable over the prior art of record, including the previously applied Kawamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,252,683). Claims 1 and 9 have been added new features, which in combination with other limitations of claims 1 or 9 makes the claimed invention patentably distinct from the Kawamura et al. Applicant's arguments presented in the remarks filed on March 11, 2005 are found convincing (pages 11-12). Specifically, the examiner agrees with Applicant on that the following features newly added to the claim in combination with the claimed divider are not disclosed by Kawamura et al.:

each of the ports, i.e., the supply paper exit port and the printed paper entry port, is formed in an interior wall portion of the housing, with the printed paper entry port being spaced apart from the paper supply exit port, the housing for housing both the supply paper compartment and the printed paper compartment.

The ports of Kawamura et al. through which the paper exits the paper supply area and then returns to the paper collection area are not formed a common wall portion.

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With respect to independent claim 16, Applicant's arguments presented in the remarks filed on March 11, 2005 are found convincing (page 12). Specifically, there is no suggestion or disclosure in Kawamura et al. for forming both of the ports, i.e., the supply paper exit port and the printed paper entry port, in a common wall portion of the side wall of the paper housing which houses the supply paper compartment and the printed paper compartment as defined by the claimed divider. Applicant's admitted prior art does not comprise a housing for two compartments containing supply papers and printed papers. Therefore, claims 16 and its dependent claims 17-20 are allowable over Kawamura et al. in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (703) 305-4867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
April 15, 2005



Cheukfan Lee